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ABSTRACT

Since its inception, the counseling profession has continuously developed a positive identity among the helping professions. This situation appears to be the result of advancements in counselor credentialing, improved counselor preparation standards, greater governmental and other third-party payer recognition of counselors' competencies, and more accountable professional practices. Primary among the reasons why the counseling profession has advanced is that counselor licensure laws now exist in the vast majority of states, allowing counselors to be on par with other publicly and legally recognized professions. The media and the Internet in particular have extended recognition of counselors as distinguishable from other helping professionals. This third edition presents counselors with the latest information on these issues and how they influence their professional practice. To make it more easily usable, it has been reorganized to align with the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs core curriculum area standards because they remain the primary framework for counselor preparation in the United States. Professional counselors need to continue to be proactive in their efforts to serve an ever increasing number of people. By involving themselves in a great number of services, counselors have and will continue to be able to effectively serve a diverse population throughout their lives. (Contains 3 tables, 6 figures, and 358 references.) (JDM)

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